

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 6, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth shall declare Your praise. O Lord, give us voice that Your justice be heard again on Earth; and Your goodness be revealed in signs of unity and peace.

May all the words echoed in this Chamber today spring forth from Your spirit living in the hearts of this Nation.

Let Your truth and Your beauty be our guide as we gather to serve the common good.

We ask Your blessing now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 5 one-minutes on each side.

ELIAN'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Juan Miguel Gonzalez arrived in the United States, more than 4 months after his little boy Elian was rescued at sea under miraculous circumstances.

Elian's fate is still uncertain. However, if deported there are truths we could be certain about. If deported, Elian will become the property of the Castro regime. Castro officials themselves declared just this week that Elian is Cuba's possession.

If forced to return to Cuba, Elian will be hospitalized for an undetermined pe-

riod of time, and hospitalized is Castro's euphemism for reeducation and reprogramming.

If deported, 6-year-old Elian will be subjected to the type of education pictured here where children are given combat training and are forced to use rifles and other weapons as part of their elementary school curriculum.

Despite Elian's mother's ultimate sacrifice for him to live in freedom here in the United States, despite Elian's struggle to survive the perilous journey from Castro's Cuba, despite Elian's desire to remain in the United States, his days of liberty may give way to a future of forced child labor, enslavement, and oppression.

Today may mark a sad day for democracy, freedom, and the rule of law.

ENRON FIELD, NEW HOME OF THE HOUSTON ASTROS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a new baseball park that is opening for the Houston Astros National League opening this Friday night.

I know a lot of times Members get up, and I do it too, on 1-minutes and talk about the issues of the day, and that is important because that is what we are here for, but it is also used to talk about things that are happening across this great country of ours.

In Houston, Texas' tomorrow night National League opener, the Houston Astros, is in our new Enron Field. Having grown up in Houston and watched the old Colt 45s in Colt Stadium and the Astros in the Astrodome, our new home, the three-time defending National League Central Champions, the Houston Astros are opening in Enron Field. It has been called the ninth wonder of the world now because it replaces the Astrodome which was the eighth wonder of the world.

The new diamond was approved by the voters and built in the heart of downtown Houston, like a lot of baseball stadiums are being done today in advancing the economic vitality of our city centers. It features 42,000 seats and all the amenities that everyone could ever imagine that those of us who grew up with baseball cannot imagine that would be available. I am proud of the Astros along with the City of Houston, and best of luck tomorrow night when they play the Philadelphia Phillies.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TRIP TO INDIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we serve in historic times. This is the first administration in history to consume \$50 million in what amounts to a 6-day expedition. The President has just returned from an official trip to India and Pakistan. On this trip, he took 77 Air Force planes and a huge entourage. He said he was going there to try to stop the arms race between India and Pakistan. It seems that the President and his aides spent more time sight-seeing at the Taj Mahal and looking for tigers than engaging in productive diplomacy, and all of this cost the taxpayers \$50 million.

How interesting that it took Ken Starr 6 years to spend that much investigating indiscretions at the White House, and the White House called that investigation a waste of taxpayer money. Think of it, 6 days of sight-seeing versus 6 years of investigations. It turns out that Starr may have been the most frugal executive branch employee of them all.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of international family planning. Today international guests from Kenya, Albania, Nigeria, Colombia, and Bangladesh will be visiting offices and participating in a forum cosponsored by the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues on why family planning matters.

They will testify with personal stories from the field on how important family planning is in saving women's lives.

In 1998, this body cut all U.S. funding for UNFPA and drastically cut USAID. Along with many of my colleagues, we fought back by introducing legislation to reinstate the U.S. contribution to UNFPA. We were successful last year in securing \$25 million. This year it is time to go back to the future, back to 1995 levels for international family planning. I hope my colleagues will take advantage of our international guests visiting with us today and take the time to speak with them on what

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.